

Bill 37 Testimony

MISC. COM. 277



Board of Directors

E. Lee Stack, President
Joseph Leoni, Vice-President
Wing Tek Lum, Treasurer
Nolan Zane, Secretary

Robert Au
Michelle Bartell, ASB
Christy Vicari-Coito
Ed D'Ascoli
Oren Schlieman
Allen M. Stack, Jr.
Elizabeth M. Stack

May 19, 2020

RE: Support for Bill 37, Relating to Public Sidewalks

Dear Honolulu City Council Members,

The Chinatown Improvement District is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed, in part, to enhance and improve neighborhood conditions and the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors in the area. Our members and supporters are comprised of Chinatown land and business owners, residents, and members of the general public. Our organization supports Bill 37 and an extension of sit-lie prohibition hours in Chinatown from 5:00 a.m. (when early morning markets in the area open) until 3:00 a.m. (after late night pubs and restaurants close).

We note the following points: 1) Ordinance 14-26 was enacted to establish Sit-Lie prohibition hours for the Waikiki District, another dense commercial district, for 24 hours seven days per week; 2) Ordinance 15-40 Relating to Malls in the Downtown Chinatown area established sit-lie prohibition hours for all days of the week and all hours in some areas in certain instances; 3) Downtown and Chinatown are commercial mixed use districts with significant and varied business activity as well as significant tourist activity and a large number of residents relying on public transportation; 4) the Chinatown and Downtown districts are walkable pedestrian neighborhoods where business patrons and vendors primarily use sidewalks to access and stock businesses; 5) certain area businesses are open until 2:00 a.m. and public transportation serves the area on main streets at all hours and on other streets until midnight and business employees, customers, residents and visitors traverse the area up until 3:00 a.m. entering and exiting such businesses, residences and accessing public transportation.

Our organization supports Bill 37 as a means of accomplishing better access, health and safety for all users of public sidewalks while also encouraging appropriate referrals for those in need of services and shelter.

Sincerely,

E. Lee Stack, President
Chinatown Improvement District



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